IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant   : Kouji KITA   Art Unit:
Serial No. : filed concurrently   Examiner:
Filing Date: July 27, 2001
Title   : IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, IMAGE PROCESSING DEVICE,
              IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM, AND RECORDING MEDIUM
              FOR RECORDING IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

     Prior to the examination for this application, please amend

the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

     Please change page 13, line 22 as follows:

               -- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

     The patent or application file contains at least one drawing

executed in color. Copies of this patent or patent application

publication with color drawing(s) will be provided by the Office

upon request and payment of the necessary fee. --

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

     Please substitute the following Abstract of the Disclosure on

page 60:

Preliminary Amendment
Application No.: filed concurrently
Filing date: July 27, 2001
Applicant: Kouji KITA
Title: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, IMAGE PROCESSING DEVICE,
     IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM, AND RECORDING MEDIUM
     FOR RECORDING IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM

-- The image processing device is configured including: a Y/C separator section for separating image data into chromaticity data BY_{xy}, RY_{xy} and luminosity data YY_{xy}; a chromaticity noise removing section for smoothing the chromaticity data BY_{xy}, RY_{xy}: a luminosity noise removing section for smoothing the luminosity data YY_{xy}; and a noise-removing-rate computing section for computing a distribution parameter DP representative of a variation of the luminosity data YY_{xy} in two-dimensional coordinate space and computing, for each unit area of an image, a rate of the smoothing of the chromaticity data BY_{xy}, RY_{xy} and a rate of the smoothing of the luminosity data YY_{xy} according to the distribution parameter DP as outputs to the chromaticity noise removing section and the luminosity noise removing section respectively. The image processing device can execute image processing on digital image data to reduce a coarse look caused by film particles without blurring edges in the image. --

<u>REMARKS</u>

By this amendment, the specification has been amended to insert the required language for color photographs as the first paragraph of the Brief Description of the Drawings section as set

Preliminary Amendment
Application No.: filed concurrently
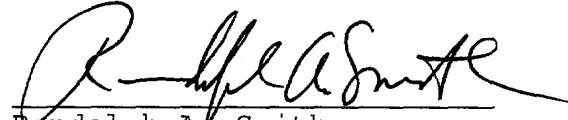Filing date: July 27, 2001
Applicant: Kouji KITA
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      FOR RECORDING IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM

forth in 37 CFR 1.84(a)(2). Also, the Abstract of the Disclosure

has been amended to reduce the number of words so as to comply with

the new USPTO rules.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding this amendment

or the remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the

undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 27, 2001

Randolph A. Smith
Reg. No. 32,548

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Submitted herewith is a marked-up version of the amended the abstract of the disclosure to show changes made in the foregoing Amendment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The specification on page 13, line 22 has been changed as follows:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The patent or application file contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent or patent application publication with color drawing(s) will be provided by the Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee. --

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been changed as follows:

-- The image processing device is configured including: a Y/C separator section for separating image data into chromaticity data

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Preliminary Amendment
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       FOR RECORDING IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM

BY_{xy}, RY_{xy} and luminosity data YY_{xy}; a chromaticity noise removing section for smoothing the chromaticity data BY_{xy}, RY_{xy}: a luminosity noise removing section for smoothing the luminosity data YY_{xy}; and a noise-removing-rate computing section for computing a distribution parameter DP representative of a variation of the luminosity data YY_{xy} in two-dimensional coordinate space and computing, for each unit area of an image, a rate of the smoothing of the chromaticity data BY_{xy}, RY_{xy} and a rate of the smoothing of the luminosity data YY_{xy} according to the distribution parameter DP as outputs to the chromaticity noise removing section and the luminosity noise removing section respectively. The image processing device can execute [such] image processing on digital image data [that can] to reduce a coarse look caused by film particles without blurring edges in the image. --

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